CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An axle housing assembly comprising:

a housing;

a shaft supported for rotation within said housing, and

a web member within said housing defining a lubricant containment chamber within a portion of said housing.

2. The assembly of claim 1, including a drive assembly within said lubricant containment chamber.

3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein said shaft extends through said web member.

4. The assembly of claim 3, wherein said web member includes a shaft seal disposed about said shaft for preventing lubricant leakage past said web member.

5. The assembly of claim 1, including two lubricant containment chambers within said housing.

6. The assembly of claim 5, wherein said lubricant containment chambers are disposed at distal ends of said housing.

7. The assembly of claim 5, including a middle section of said housing sealed between said web members at each end of said housing, said middle section not containing lubricant.

8. The assembly of claim 1, wherein said axle assembly rotates about a first axis and a wheel hub driven by said shaft rotates about a second axis spaced apart from said first axis.

9. The assembly of claim 8, including a hub driven by said shaft.

10. The assembly of claim 1, wherein said web member forms a lubricant containment cavity around a drive assembly.

11. An axle housing assembly comprising:

a housing defining an internal chamber;

a shaft supported for rotation within said housing; and

a web member disposed within said chamber restricting flow of a lubricant to a portion of said chamber.

12. The assembly of claim 11, including a drive mechanism disposed within said chamber containing lubricant.

13. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said shaft extends through an opening of said web member.

14. The assembly of claim 13, including a shaft seal cooperating with said shaft and said web member for preventing lubricant from passing out of said chamber containing lubricant.

15. The assembly of claim 11, including at least two web members restricting lubricant flow to distal ends of said internal chamber.